IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 to read as follows:

1. *(Once Amended)* A method for multi-casting video content
to plural user computers, the method comprising:

distributing a video content program from a content center
to plural regional data centers via an open network;

distributing the video content program from each of the
plural regional data centers to user computers network-connected
to the plural regional data centers according to a multi-cast
protocol; and

transmitting non-video data related to the video content
program to the user computers for display by the user computers
contemporaneously with the video content program.

Add new claims 2-21 as follows:

-- 2. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of
claim 1 wherein the multi-cast protocol further comprises
Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP) and class D addressing
with private multi-cast addresses.

3. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of
claim 1, wherein the open network is selected from the group
consisting of a satellite network, a terrestrial wireless
network, a cable network, and a fiber optic network.

4. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of claim 1, wherein the user computers are network-connected via a distribution network selected from the group consisting of a satellite network, a terrestrial wireless network, a cable network, and a fiber optic network.

5. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of claim 4, wherein the distribution network is interactive and wherein the method further comprises:

receiving the video content program and the non-video data at at least one of the user computers connected to the distribution network;

displaying the video content program on the at least one user computer through a graphical user interface (GUI), the GUI further comprising an object button associated with an object in the video content program and a control button associated with the display of the video content program;

generating, at the at least one user computer, user data corresponding to selection of the object button or the control button by the user;

receiving the user data at the regional data center to which the at least one user computer is network-connected;

processing the user data received from the user; and

sending a response to the at least one user computer.

Date: June 19, 2002   Atty. Dkt. No.: 2585-009

6. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of claim 5, wherein the video content program comprises a game and the user data comprises game play.

7. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of claim 5, wherein the video content program comprises a plurality of selectable responses and the user data comprises a response selected by the user.

8. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of claim 5, wherein the object button is associated with information data,

wherein the user data reflects the user's selection of the object button, and

wherein the response to the user comprises the information data.

9. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of claim 5, wherein the object button is associated with an offer to sell goods or services,

wherein the user reflects the user's selection of the object button, and

wherein the response to the user comprises the offer.

10. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of

claim 5, wherein the video content program comprises a pre-recorded program,

wherein non-video data comprises a control command associated with the control button,

wherein the user data reflects the user's selection of the control button, and

wherein the response to the user comprises executing the control command.

11. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of claim 10 wherein the control command is selected from the group consisting of video stop, video start, video rewind, video pause, video freeze frame, video slow motion, video display size, video image save, program menu, channel selection, volume, and audio mute.

12. *(New)* The method for multi-casting video content of claim 5, further comprising:

requesting preference information from the user;

receiving preference information from the user at the regional control center;

storing preference information associated with the user at the regional data center; and

processing preference information to provide distribution of

video content program and processing of user data in accordance

with the preference information.

13. *(New)*   The method for multi-casting video content of

claim 12, wherein the preference information comprises parental

control data.

14. *(New)*   The method for multi-casting video content of

claim 12, wherein the preference information further comprises

user transaction data.

15. *(New)*   A system for multi-casting video content to

plural user computers, the system comprising:

a content server comprising a first processor, a first

storage means, and a first memory, the first memory comprising a

first set of software instructions, the first set of software

instructions comprising instructions for distributing a video

content program from a content center to plural regional data

centers via an open network;

a distribution server comprising a second processor, a

second storage means, and a second memory, the second memory

comprising a second set of software instructions, the second set

of software instructions comprising instructions for:

16. *(New)*   The system of claim 15 wherein the multi-cast

protocol further comprises Internet Group Management Protocol

(IGMP) and class D addressing with private multi-cast addresses.

17. *(New)* The system of 15, wherein the open network is

selected from the group consisting of a satellite network, a

terrestrial wireless network, a cable network, and a fiber optic

network.

18. *(New)* The system of claim 15, wherein the user

computers are network-connected via a distribution network

selected from the group consisting of a satellite network, a

terrestrial wireless network, a cable network, and a fiber optic

network.

19. *(New)* A system for multi-casting video program content

and non-video data over a distribution network, the system

comprising:

a video program content;

a non-video data contextually related to the video program

content;

a multicasting computer comprising a processor, a storage

means, a memory, the memory including software instructions, the

software instructions further instructions for:

receiving the video program content;

receiving the non-video data;

distributing the video content program via a distribution

network according to a multi-cast protocol; and

transmitting the non-video data contemporaneously with the

video program content over the distribution network.

20. *(New)* The system for multi-casting video content

program and data content over a distribution network of claim 19

wherein the multi-cast protocol comprises Internet Group

Management Protocol (IGMP) and class D addressing with private

multi-cast addresses.

21. *(New)* The system for multi-casting video content

program and data content over a distribution network of claim 19,

wherein the distribution network is selected from the group

consisting of a satellite network, a terrestrial wireless

network, a cable network, and a fiber optic network. --